

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 8 through 10.

Amend claims 1-3 and 7 as shown below.

Add claim 11-14 as shown below.

1. (currently amended) A universal tie-down rail for securing a cargo in a vehicle comprising: a cylindrical tube: a cylindrical thin wall tube; a pair of single piece brackets ~~made from an aluminum extrusion~~, each of said brackets having a uniform cross section comprised of an upper circular thin wall portion, an adjoining downward extending substantially vertical wall portion and an adjoining lower base portion and being ~~slidably mounted on~~ selectively positional along a length of said tube and selectively rotatable about an axis of said tube; and a fastener threadably engaging each of said brackets for clamping said brackets to said tube.

2. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 1 further comprising at least one additional bracket between said pair of brackets for reducing bending stresses in said thin wall tube.

3. (currently amended) A universal tie-down rail for securing cargo in a vehicle comprising a cylindrical tube; at least one pair of single piece brackets having uniform

cross sections ~~made from an aluminum extrusion~~, said brackets being slidably mounted ~~on~~ positional along a length of said tube and rotatable about an axis of said tube; and a means in each of said brackets for fixing said brackets to said tube.

4. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein said vehicle is a pick-up truck.

5. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein said vehicle is a van.

6. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein said vehicle is a station wagon.

7. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein each of said brackets is comprised of ~~having~~ an upper circular thin wall portion, an adjoining downward extending substantially vertical wall portion and an adjoining lower base portion.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A universal tie-down rail for securing a cargo in a vehicle comprising: a cylindrical tube: a cylindrical thin wall tube; a pair of single piece brackets for mounting said rail on a vehicle, each of said brackets having a uniform cross section, including an upper circular thin wall portion for receiving said cylindrical thin wall tube; and a means for selectively positioning and fixing said bracket along a length of said tube.

12. (new) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 11 wherein said means for selectively positioning and fixing said bracket along a length of said tube is comprised of a screw for threadably engaging said circular wall portion to fix said bracket to said tube.

13. (new) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 11 further comprising a single aperture in a lower portion of each of said brackets for said mounting of said rail on said vehicle.

14. (new) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 11 further comprising at least one additional bracket for mounting said rail on said vehicle.